Concept of Qurbani / Sacrifice

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Alhamdulillahi Rabbil Alamin

All praises and thanks are due to Allah the Lord of the Universe. We praise you Allah Subhana wa ta 'Aala and seek Your help.

In this small booklet we will talk about the

Concept of Qurbani/ Sacrifice.

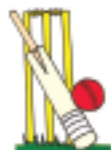
Dear Children

What is your favorite activity or sport? Is it?

or reading a good book?

We all have favorite sports and many of us enjoy picnics and amusement parks, but if the time for prayer comes and we are busy in any one of these activities and we leave them knowing that it is Allah's command then we have sacrificed our enjoyment for Allah's Pleasure Alhamdulillah.

Ok let's imagine that you are tired or sleepy and on top of that you even have a cold and because of this you are feeling a little lazy and are in bed not wanting to do anything.

All of a sudden a friend of yours comes to your house and says lets go swimming or let's go to the amusement park or says I have a few tickets to the cricket game at the stadium!!

Let us talk about a boy whose favorite thing is to play cricket so this boy who we will call Adil is not feeling well but his friend Sajid has come over and wants to go for this match at the stadium. Sajid says we will wear green Pakistani t-shirts and have lots of fun!!

So Adil even though he is not feeling well gets out of his bed he leaves the comfort of his bed because of his passion and love for cricket. Then both of the friends get ready and make the effort to travel in the bus they pay the fare of the bus to get to the stadium. They really enjoy their time there. You must have understood that to enjoy the match they had to give their time their money and Adil gave up his comfort.

Let us look at a few examples in life… we all realize the importance of school. Our parents tell us that we have to get a good education so that we can get a degree or get a good job. All of us go to nursery then 1st grade which is primary school, secondary school, college and then many go to universities.

We get up early we leave are comfortable homes we go we spend our time our money and we put in our effort we do our homework we study for tests all to achieve a good education.

We sacrifice our comforts our sleep and then only can we get a degree. To get something we have to give up something isn't that right children. I think you would all agree on that.

Allah Almighty is the Creator of you and me and the cricket celebrity!! and the entire universe!!!

We all want His love we all want to go to Jannah. Such a beautiful place where there is no sadness no worry no discomfort. Where anything and everything that we want will be available for us insha Allah.

A place so very special as Jannah can it be achieved without effort? The answer is plain no.

Alhamdulillah I know that so many of you when your parents wake you up for Fajr prayer you get up leave your warm bed and go for wudhu and perform your salah. This leaving of your comfortable bed is a sacrifice of your sleep and rest. Alhamdulillah. For Allah's Love

Sacrifice is when you fast during the month of Ramadan you sacrifice your urge your desire to eat and drink from dawn to dusk. Alhamdulillah.

We sacrifice when we give Zakat out of our saved money for Allah's Pleasure because we are Muslims and we obey Allah's command.

We can even further understand the meaning of sacrifice by imagining that you decide to give your favorite toy to please Allah you want to give this precious toy of yours to an orphan child. So you ask your Mother to take you to an orphanage where you give your favorite toy so someone else can enjoy playing with it. This is sacrifice, a beautiful *qurbani*, Alhamdulillah.

You want to go to Jannah you want to earn reward and blessings from Allah Almighty. You want to see Allah Subhana wa ta 'aala in Paradise so you sacrifice your favorite most loved toy or book or clothing. To see Allah to meet with Allah we can give our best things our best efforts, talents, energy and time.

Let's talk about Adil and Sajid who totally just love cricket. Even though Adil was not well he still went to the cricket match and now let's imagine that at the end of the match someone tells him that your favorite cricket player is going to give time to his fans and give his autograph!!

How do you think Adil and Sajid would feel? Will they be excited? Will they wait on long lines/ que to meet with the cricket celebrity will they expend their energy? Will they get tired? Will they sacrifice their dinner time to get a glimpse of their celebrity? I think you all want to answer yes to the questions above.

We all have to give up something to get something that is of value and importance to us.

Allah Almighty the Ar-Rahman the Most Merciful Ar-Rahim the most Compassionate Al-Malik the King, the Monarch. Al-Quddus the Holy one As-Salam the One who is free from every imperfection the Peace, the Tranquility the Creator of the entire galaxies the entire Universe to attain His Love we have to sacrifice our favorite things comfort time money energy in sha Allah.

Let us learn about some of the occurrences in the life of a very special Prophet.

Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim (as) and his son who was also a Prophet Hazrat Ismail (as).

In the our Glorious Quran Hazrat Ibrahim (as) is mentioned as Khalil ul Allah, Friend of Allah ! How did he get to be Allah Almighty's friend let us find out!

The Holy Quran speaks extensively about Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim (as). In fact the name of Hazrat Ibrahim (as) has appeared in the Holy Quran about 70 times. He has been given many beautiful names and titles such as.

Khaleelullah (Friend of Allah)
Siddiq (The Truthful)
Nabi (The Prophet)
Imam (The leader)
Muslim (One who submits to One God)
Haneef (A Monotheist)
Ummah (A Nation)

In the Glorious Majestic Quran we are told by Allah Almighty that Hazrat Ibrahim(as) always submitted, surrendered to Allah's every command. His sacrifices are told to us in our Holy Book the Quran. Allah Almighty is most Appreciative of

all the sacrifices Hazart Ibrahim(as) made and Allah Almighty always appreciates everyone who submits to what Allah Almighty commands. Allah Almighty is Ash-Shakur the One who gives a lot of reward for even a little obedience He is the Grateful, the Thankful.

Hazrat Ibrahim(as) was told by Allah Almighty through revelation/ wahi to take his wife Hazrat Hajra (ra) and his son Hazrat Ismail (as) to the city of Mecca which was then called Bacca.

This valley was a desert and at that time there were no people there at all. Hazrat Ibrahim took his wife and son there and as he was leaving them Hazrat Hajra (ra) said why are you leaving us here where there is no support for us. Hazrat Ibrahim(as) remained silent. Hazrat Hajra(ra) said is it Allah Almighty that wants this to happen? Hazrat Ibrahim(as) said yes If it is His command then he will never waste us.

Here let's look at Hazrat Ibrahim (as) sacrifice, because of Allah's command he parted with his beloved wife and child.

Hazrat Ibrahim(as) wanted to listen to and obey to everything that Allah Almighty wanted. Let us also notice Hazrat Hajra (ra)'s sacrifice she was willing to stay in the desert with no support no people around in a new isolated place to please her Allah Almighty.

She could have said anything at that time… like I don't want to be here in the lonely barren deserted land and could have said why are you leaving me with a child how will I look after him?? And so many other things Hazrat Hajra (ra) could have said Her Imaan was very strong and she had a very beautiful connection with Allah Almighty a connection that we should all aim and pray for.

The food and water that Hazrat Hajra (ra) had was very limited and soon it all finished. The baby Hazrat Ismail (as) started to cry,,,he was thirsty. So Hazrat Hajra (ra) began looking for water she thought that maybe a caravan could be passing by that could have water or there could be a well that she could get water from.

In this barren valley was a hill called Saffa so she climbed it to get a better view, to look around and try to find anyone that could help her, then she came down and walked to the next hill called Marwa to look around. In her worry for the baby in her desperation Hazrat Hajra (ra) went back and forth seven times between the two hills!!

Praying and hoping and making and efort to find water any kind of help for hisself and baby Ismail (as).

The baby kept crying and after the seventh round when she looked at the baby and saw water gushing out the ground where Hazrat Ismail (as) was lying down. Allah Almighty in His Mercy had sent down Angel Hazrat Jibrail and he with his wing or heel sruck the earth and water gushed and flowed out Alhamdulillah.

Hazrat Hajra (ra)'s saw the water quickly flowing out and said stop… stop. In Arabic Zam Zam that is why we call the water Zam Zam

This going back and forth was so liked by Allah Almighty that for everyone who goes for Umrah or Haj they have to walk between these two hills to remember our beloved Syedna Hazrat Hajra(ra)'s and the sacrifices she made to attain Allah's Almighty Love.

Prophet Ibrahim (as) had prayed to Allah Almighty to grant him a son. Allah Almighty fulfilled his wish and gave him Prophet Ismail (as) in his old age. Hazrat Ibrahim (as) loved him deeply his dua is in the Quran Majeed.

"O God! Grant me with a righteous son. So We gave him the glad tidings of a forbearing son."
(Surah Saffat 37.Ayat 100-101)

Then one day Hazrat Ibrahim (as) had a dream in which he was that he was sacrificing Hazrat Ismail (as), when Hazrat Ibrahim (as) had this dream three consecutive nights he told his son Hazrat Ismail (as) about it.

Hazrat Ibrahim (as) said. 'O Father! Do whatever you have been commanded. If Allah Almighty wishes, you will find me to be patient."

(Surah Saffat 37. Ayat 102)

Can you imagine kids how strong the Imaan of Prophet Ibrahim(as) and Prophet Ismail (as) was! We have to thank Allah Subhana wa ta 'Aala that we don't have to go through such difficult exams.

Hazrat Ibrahim (as) set out with his son Hazrat Ismail (as) to the sacrificing spot. It was certainly not an easy task!

On the way, Shaytan tried to stop Prophet Ibrahim (as) from offering the sacrifice, but because of the strong faith in Allah Almighty, Prophet Ibrahim (as)'s determination to obey the command of his Creator could not be shaken. Shaytan then tried his luck with young Prophet Ismail (as).

Prophet Ismail (as) was a righteous son and he too, could therefore not be influenced. They both the father and son threw pebbles at the Shaytan. This act is performed by all the people who go for Hajj it is one of the rites of Hajj. Seven pebbles are thrown at each spot where Shaytan tried to stop them.

After the Shaytan went away they then arrived at the sacrificing spot at Mina. Hazrat Ibrahim (as) tied the hands and the legs of his son so as not to be uneasy by his pain and restlessness. He blindfolded himself and carrying the knife he obeyed the command of Allah Almighty.

A voice was heard… Quran Kareem states…

"We called out to him. O Ibrahim! You have indeed fulfilled the vision! Thus indeed We reward the virtuous. This indeed was a manifest trial. Then We ransomed him with a great sacrifice, and We left (this blessing) for him among generations (to come) in later times. Peace be to Ibrahim."

(Surah Saffat 37.Ayats104-109)

When Hazrat Ibrahim (as) removed his fold, he saw Prophet Ismail (as) by his side smiling and in his place was a Ram

which Allah Almighty asked Hazrat Ibrahim (as) to sacrifice instead!

So to remember Hazrat Ibrahim (as) great sacrifice all of the Muslim Ummah on the 10th of Zhul Hijjah, after after Eid Salah, sacrifices a lamb, sheep, goat, cow or a camel. While sacrificing the animal in the name of Allah Almighty we say Bismillah, Allah Akbar, then we distribute the meat amongst our friends, relatives and the poor.

This is a beautiful celebration of our love, submission and devotion for Allah Almighty

This act is not just a ritual but it has a meaning and a significance. In Surah Hajj, ayats 36 and 37, Allah Almighty has made it clear: "Thus we have disposed them (animals) for your benefit so that you may give thanks."

(Surah Hajj22: Ayat 36)

Then Allah Almighty says.

"It is not their flesh or their blood that reaches Allah Almighty. Rather it is your piety that reaches Him. Thus has He disposed them for your benefit so that you may magnify Allah Almighty for His guiding you. And give good news to the virtuous."

(Surah Hajj 22 ayat 37)

We should all decide that we also want to please Allah Almighty we should monitor, and see which are the things, that take us away from the obedience of Allah Almighty or the pleasure of Allah Almighty. We should begin removing these things from our lives this way we will sacrifice our interests over Allah Almighty command. We should also start caring for others more and more to please our Lord our Rabb our Allah Almighty. When we give our time to sit with the elders even though we want to play or when we give our favorite things to the poor, or when we give our pocket money to the needy, or when we take care of the orphans we are pleasing Allah Almighty and gaining lots of reward. Let's look a little more in detail at different ways we can sacrifice for Allah Almighty Love.

Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) always cared for others and sacrificed his time and comfort for the pleasure of Allah Almighty so anytime you do the same you are following in his footsteps….

It is 4 in the morning and Samina is sleeping comfortably in her warm cozy bed. Her mother wakes her up for Fajr prayer. Samina gets up because she understands that praying is a command from Allah Almighty. She sacrifices her sleep and her bed to please Allah Almighty.

Adnan is taking Quran lessons and his friends come to invite him for a game of cricket, but Adnan tells them that he will join them later because he wants to please Allah Almighty and he knows how important it is to acquire the knowledge of the Quran.

It is the month of Ramadan and Sameer does not want to fast, but after his father explains to him that it is part of being a good Muslim and that Allah Almighty will reward him, Sameer agrees. He sacrifices his desire to eat for Allah Almighty's Pleasure.

Faiza has saved some pocket money and she wants to buy a beautiful clock for her room. She saw the clock she wants at the mall last time she had gone with her mother there. Next day she goes to school and her teacher tells the class that the school is collecting money to give to the SOS village for

the poor. These poor children don't have proper clothing. Faiza decides to give all her pocket money to please Allah Almighty and prays to get rewarded for a good deed.

Marium is playing a computer game and is really enjoying the game. Suddenly she hears her mother's voice asking for a glass of water ... So she leaves her enjoyment of the game and gives her mother a glass of water because she remembers that Allah Almighty wants us to be good to our parents.

An older sister Khadija is reading a very interesting book and she hears her little sister crying she starts thinking that Mom will take care of her and that it's not her responsibility…but all of a sudden she remembers that Allah Almighty has asked us all to be caring. So she gets up gives her sister hug and a kiss and comforts her. The little sister stops crying and starts smiling. This way Khadija scarified her reading time for the Pleasure of Allah Almighty.

Adil is out with his mother in the market and he is very thirsty. His mother gives him a cold bottle of water. Just at that time a poor boy comes and asks for water Adil immediately gives the poor boy the water bottle because he knows that Allah Almighty will reward him for that in sha Allah.

Sara just got her Eid clothes from the tailor as she is getting into her car a girl approaches her with torn dirty clothes and says I want to wear clean new clothes on Eid. Sara thinks for a minute and gives the poor girl her new clothes so that Allah Almighty will be pleased with her.

In school some of Anila's friends are sitting in a group Anila wants to join them, but she hears them, making fun of a new student Tara. Anila realizes that Allah Almighty in the Quran Majeed says that people should not make fun others. Anila does not join them she goes to Tara and starts talking to her in a friendly manner. Sara sacrificed siting with her friends for Allah Almighty.

Yousaf is playing football with his friends in the park and he sees that a boy is standing at one side alone, so he tells his friends let's ask him to play with us. Most of Yousaf's friends say no we don't even know him. You better not ask him or else we will be upset with you. Yousaf leaves the game and goes to talk to the lonely boy. He asks him his name the boy says my name is Sulayman. Yousaf asks him to join the game. Most of his friends get annoyed with him but Yousaf convinces them. So reluctantly they continue the game again. Yousaf was ready to leave his football game to make Sulayman happy. Yousaf knows how much Allah Almighty loves when you give happiness to someone.

Shamim and friends are getting ready to have a bicycle race and Shamim sees an old lady carrying heavy bags of groceries. Shamim decides to leave the race which she prepared for many weeks. Shamim takes the bags from the old lady's hands and walks her to her home. Shamim knows that Allah Almighty wants us to take care of the old. Shamim sacrifices her bicycle competition for the Love of Allah Almighty. When she gets back she realizes that everyone had decided to wait for Shamim so the race began after she returned!

Razia and her friends are studying for an exam during their study period. A new girl named Sajda walks into the room and wants to know where the library is. Razia gets up to take her to the library and also shows her the science lab and the cafeteria area. Razia makes friends with Sajda and makes her feel welcomed and happy, Razia sacrifices her study time to make Sajda feel joyful because Razia knows that Allah Almighty wants us to care for others.

Jawad is sitting on the bus looking out at the beautiful view outside. The bus stops and an old man walks in so Jawad gives his seat to the old man to please Allah Almighty.

Sana is in class learning an important lesson. Nida tells the teacher that she has a bad stomach ache. Sana volunteers to take Nida to the nurse's office because she knows that good Muslims always help each other. Sana gives up/ sacrifices her lesson learning to please Allah Almighty.

Nuzhat's family is going for a picnic in the car. Nuzhat wants to get to the picnic area quickly so she can run around and have fun. On the road Nuzhat sees a car with a flat tire so she asks her father to stop the car to help the person on the road. Her father listens to his daughter. Nuzhat sacrificed her desire to reach the picnic area quickly for the Pleasure of Allah Almighty.

Fatima is walking to her friend Misha's house because all her friends are getting together to celebrate the good marks that Misha has achieved in school. On the way to Misha's house she sees a kitten who is hurt. Fatima looks around for

the kitten's mother. Half an hour later Fatima decides to take the kitten home and she cleans her wound and gives her milk. She prays that Allah Almighty will reward her in sha Allah Almighty.

Usman is playing with his friends in the park. Then they all go on the swings. Usman sees a young baby bird on the ground so he leaves his swing and goes to pick up the baby bird. Usman walks around looking for the nest. Finally he finds the nest on a faraway tree and he places the baby bird there. He prays that the bird is going to be safe. Usman sacrificed his playing time for Allah Almighty Love.

Asif is doing his homework which is due tomorrow. He sees his mother who is very tired washing dishes. He leaves his homework and tells his mother to rest. Asif washes all the dishes and cleans the kitchen. Asif prays to Allah Almighty to keep his mother well and Asif hopes that Allah Almighty is happy with him

Let us talk about parents. Parents are always sacrificing their time, energy, comfort, sleep and money for their children. Allah Almighty states in the Quran Majeed "And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honor."

(Quran 17.23)

"And We have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good)

to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in two years give thanks to Me and to your parents, unto Me is the final destination."

(Quran 31.14)

The mother carries the baby in her womb for nine month this is not easy, then she nurses the child. Mothers are always ready to take care of their children they themselves could be exhausted or sleepy or not well but they sacrifice their comforts to make sure that the children are safe and happy. A child cries at night the mother carries her, comforts her, sings to her, hugs her, feeds her, changes the diaper/nappy even though is sleepy and tired all this is a sacrifice. She cares about her child because she understand that her child is a gift/amanat from Allah Almighty.

The father works all day to earn a livelihood to support the family. With Allah Almighty's Mercy a father looks after the welfare of the family. He earns so that his children can eat well, live well and be able to go to school. He sacrifices his time and energy for the family. He knows that Allah Almighty wants him to take care of his family and he understands that it is his duty.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) many times was asked to leave Tauhid the Oneness of Allah Almighty. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) went through so much pain and hurt and ridicule by the people of Quraish but he peace be upon him said even if they put the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left I will not give up until this

message is told to everyone. His character was humble he peace be upon him was ready to sacrifice anything for the spread of Islam,

During our lifetime we should continue always to gather as many good deeds as possible these good deeds and above all by Allah's Mercy will can achieve Jannah in sha Allah. Then in Jannah we will get to see our Glorious Majestic Allah Almighty and that will be our true success.

Remember the passion and the love of Adil and Sajid for cricket … they did not mind travelling, spending money missing dinner all to watch a cricket game and to get an autograph of their favorite player…

We have to love our Creator with much more passion and devotion and be ready to sacrifice anything to please Allah Almighty if need be. We have to rember Hazrat Ibrahim's (as) sacrifices that he made throughout his life to please Allah Almighty. Allah's pleasure is of utmost priority may Allah Almighty help us to walk in the footsteps of Hazrat Ibrahim (as) and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) Ameen.

May we all meet each other in Jannah ameen.